

Borough of Kendal



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


FOR THE YEAR

1950

LIVERPOOL

C. TINLING AND COMPANY, LIMITED, PRINTERS, 53, VICTORIA STREET

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Kendal.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Borough during the year 1950.

The gradual post-war resumption of progress in public health practice has been complicated by the initial difficulties of the first year's operation of the National Health Service, 1946, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

The legislative upheaval has split Medicine into three poorly co-ordinated divisions—the hospitals, general practice, and the public health service. The emphasis now lies upon the curative services of the regionally controlled hospitals. The enormous cost of treatment will soon focus more attention upon the preventive services, for the adage that prevention is better than cure was never more appropriate than in this year of Grace.

I believe that these statutes offer great opportunities for advancement in the primary functions of hygiene and preventive medicine if the public health service of the local authorities can take its logical place in a more united trinity of medicine. It has a proud record in the past and still great faith in the future.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area of the Borough in acres... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,705 |
| Population (mid 1950) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18,450 |
| Inhabited houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,611 |
| Rateable Value ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £138,712 |

Kendal is picturesquely situated in the valley of the River Kent, the greater part being on the west bank built on ground rising steeply in a series of terraced streets up Kendal Fell to about 350 feet above sea level. The buildings on the east bank are situated on undulating low-lands rising from 137 feet to 200 feet contour. The dale of Kendal runs from north to south with the level of the eastern boundary varying between 500 and 600 feet and the western boundary between 300 and 600 feet above sea level.

The geology of the Borough is sharply divided by the Fellside. The steep eminence of Kendal Fell on the west is composed of carboniferous limestones which represent remains of the dome which once covered the Lake District, and the sharp division is caused by a fault in this system. To the east of this fault denudation has taken place and the outcropping rocks are Kirkby Moor Flags of the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System.* Alluvial deposits and some Basement Conglomerates form the small northern area of the Borough.

The climate is mild but invigorating, the town is sheltered by the Fell from the prevailing westerly winds, and the open aspect to the south provides full access to sunlight. Temperature gradient inversions are frequent at night but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall normally varies between 50 and 55 inches a year, and light falls of snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter. The low-lying land in the north of the Borough is liable to flooding when the River Kent is in spate, but the town remains comfortably dry and free from mist and fog.

Economically Kendal serves a treble function. Primarily it is a market town, being situated in the heart of the southern portion of Westmorland and the centre of a large agricultural community within a radius of some eight miles. Secondly it is an important stopping place on the main A.6 road, where the heavy volume of motor traffic from the South divides into the portion destined for Scotland over Shap, and the portion heading for the Lake District. The former includes a high proportion of heavy lorry traffic which uses Kendal as a regular overnight staging point, and the latter includes a very high seasonal peak-load of tourist traffic. Thirdly, Kendal has become an important

centre for light industries which have guaranteed constant employment to the inhabitants and brought considerable prosperity to the town.

The local industries include a wide variety of manufacturing processes, the chief of which are:—

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Boot and Shoe Manufactory. | Tobacco and Snuff Manufactories. |
| Woollen Mills. | Breweries. |
| Engineering Works. | Carpet Manufactory. |
| Hosiery and Shirt Manufactories. | Stone and Lime Works. |

In addition there are ample opportunities for employment in the shops, cafes, hotels, business premises, and laundries. At Oxenholme the inhabitants are mainly interested in the railway employment. The variety of these opportunities for both men and women has kept Kendal happily free from general unemployment and provided that economic security and prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

The rateable value of Kendal Borough is £138,712 which represents approximately one-third of the total rateable value of the County of Westmorland. The product of a penny rate is £545 and the Rate for 1950/51 is 20/6d. of which 16/- represents the County Rate.

STAFF.

| Name. | Qualifications. | Office. | Whole or Part Time. | Other Offices. |
|--------------------|--|---|---------------------|---|
| F. T. Madge ... | M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health | Part | M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland |
| W. B. G. Rigg ... | M.R.San.I., Cert.S.I.B. | Chief Sanitary Inspector | Whole | — |
| J. H. Major ... | M.R.San.I., Cert.S.I.B. | Additional Sanitary Inspector | Whole | — |
| W. M. Lamberton | M.R.San.I., Cert.S.I.B. | Additional Sanitary Inspector | Whole | — |
| R. E. Mooney ... | — | Clerk to 30.11.50 | Whole | — |
| B. M. Machell ... | — | Clerk to Medical Officer of Health | Part | Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland |
| J. Barnfather ... | A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I. | Engineer and Surveyor. Water Engineer | Whole | — |
| C. J. H. Stock ... | B.Sc., F.R.I.C. | Public Analyst to 30.9.50 | Part | Public Analyst to Westmorland and other Local Authorities |

Staff Changes.

Mr. R. E. Mooney resigned on 30th November, 1950. Mr. G. Gibson was appointed to the vacancy and commenced duty on 2nd January, 1951.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1949 for comparison:—

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Area of the District in acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,705 |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

| | | | | | | 1949 | 1950 |
|--|--|---------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| Estimated civilian population (mid-year) ... | | | | | | 18,320 | 18,450 |
| Live Births. | Legitimate— | males | ... | ... | ... | 142 | 129 |
| | | females | ... | ... | ... | 120 | 138 |
| | Illegitimate— | males | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 8 |
| | | females | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 11 |
| | Total | | ... | ... | ... | 278 | 286 |
| | Rate per 1,000 population | | ... | ... | ... | 15.2 | 15.5 |
| | Rate for England and Wales | | ... | ... | ... | 16.7 | 15.8 |
| Stillbirths. | Legitimate— | males | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 4 |
| | | females | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 4 |
| | Illegitimate— | males | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 |
| | | females | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| | Total | | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 10 |
| | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | | ... | ... | ... | 24.5 | 33.8 |
| | Rate per 1,000 population | | ... | ... | ... | 0.37 | 0.54 |
| | Rate for England and Wales | | ... | ... | ... | 0.39 | 0.37 |
| Deaths. | Males | ... | ... | ... | ... | 115 | 139 |
| | Females | ... | ... | ... | ... | 139 | 128 |
| | Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 254 | 267 |
| | Rate per 1,000 population | | ... | ... | ... | 13.9 | 14.5 |
| | Rate for England and Wales | | ... | ... | ... | 11.7 | 11.6 |
| Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) | | | | | | | |
| | Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 15 |
| | Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births... | | ... | ... | ... | 45.8 | 56.1 |
| | Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| | Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births | | ... | ... | ... | 125 | — |
| | Total deaths under 1 year | | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 15 |
| | Rate per 1,000 live births | | ... | ... | ... | 50.3 | 52.4 |
| | Rate for England and Wales | | ... | ... | ... | 32 | 29.8 |

| | 1949 | 1950 |
|---|------|------|
| Neonatal Deaths (under 1 month) | | |
| Total neonatal deaths | 7 | 12 |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | 25·1 | 41·9 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) | | |
| Deaths | 1 | 3 |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | 3·6 | 10·5 |
| Rate for England and Wales ... | 3·0 | 1·9 |
| Maternal Mortality | | |
| Total Deaths | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | — | — |
| Rate for England and Wales ... | 0·98 | 0·86 |

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Deaths from certain causes:— | 1949 | 1950 |
| Cancer | 33 | 45 |
| Measles | 1 | Nil |
| Whooping Cough | Nil | Nil |
| The main causes of death were:— | | |
| Heart Disease | ... | 90 |
| Cancer | ... | 45 |
| Vascular lesions of the nervous system | ... | 44 |

COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1950.

Total Civilian Population.

The Registrar-General estimated that the population at the middle of 1950 was 18,450 which is an increase of 130 from the 1949 figures of 18,320. The increase of 130 may be regarded as an increase of births over deaths of 19 and an immigration of at least 111 persons into the Borough.

Live Births.

There were 286 live births, comprising 267 legitimate and 19 illegitimate. Your live birth rate of 15.5 is approximately the same as the national rate.

Stillbirths.

There were 10 stillbirths and your rate was slightly above the national figure.

Deaths.

The death rate was 14.5, a slight but insignificant rise over last year, and the general downward trend of the past 100 years is being maintained. The proportion of old persons in your community is likely to increase markedly during the next 10 years.

Infantile Deaths.

The infantile death rate per 1,000 live births of 52.4 shows a rise for the third successive year and now compares unfavourably with the national rate of 29.8. Twelve out of the 15 were neonatal deaths.

In spite of the setback of the last three years your long-term trend has been downwards and there are signs that we are approaching the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent developmental abnormalities, but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstretical specialists will help to reduce the number of neonatal deaths. The general trend reflects an improvement in child care by the local doctors, nurses and, above all, by the young mothers in their homes.

Maternal Mortality.

It is particularly pleasing to report once more that no mother sacrificed her life in childbirth.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.

The only significant outbreak of notifiable disease during 1950 was

one of staphylococcal food poisoning at Christmas, when there were 28 cases in the Borough and over 100 cases in the adjoining areas of South Westmorland. The cause was traced to jellied meats prepared in a Kendal shop. Further details will be found in the Food Section of this report.

Other notifiable diseases were remarkably few. There was a small outbreak of whooping cough during the first quarter, and a slightly increased incidence of measles in the second quarter, both of which probably originated in the surrounding rural areas. Notification of whooping cough and measles is still incomplete and the figures are not reliable.

During the last quarter of the year there were some scattered cases of scarlet fever, and Sonne dysentery occurred from time to time.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping cough is slowly being brought under control. Artificial immunisation against the disease is now available and the treatment of established cases seems to be improved by the new synthetic antibiotic drugs. There seems every hope that this very distressing illness in little children can be virtually wiped out.

Measles.

Measles remains a disease which visits the area with periodical regularity. No effective artificial immunisation is yet available, but the use of antibiotic drugs has greatly reduced the incidence of pneumonia and ear disease complications in measles.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever has been insignificant for many years, and the illness is now normally nursed at home. Research has shown that scarlet fever is merely one manifestation among many of infection with the haemolytic streptococcus organism. Its virulence has diminished during this century and treatment is more effective in preventing complications. Scarlet fever is repressed rather than conquered.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria has not occurred since 1947 when there was one case in a girl who had not been artificially immunised. During the five years 1946-1950 there were only 3 cases, none of which were fatal, compared with 137 cases and 10 deaths in the preceding five years 1941-1945.

The heavy incidence in 1941-1945 was probably due to overcrowding by evacuees and the effect of mixing up a susceptible population, but comparison with the preceding five year periods shows that in 1931-1935

there were 92 cases with 8 deaths, and in 1936-1940 there were 34 cases with one death.

Artificial immunisation appears to have smashed the hard core of diphtheria, and I hope that serious epidemics of this disease have been banished for all time. I wish to thank the local doctors and nurses for their efforts to secure artificial immunisation of every baby before the first birthday and the school medical officers for their part.

Dysentery.

Notifications of the Sonne type of bacillary dysentery have increased in recent years. This is probably because extended laboratory services have facilitated more accurate diagnosis of the group of diseases which are characterised by diarrhoea. Sonne dysentery has been widespread throughout the north west of England and its control lies mainly in securing clean food handling and the maintenance of higher standards of sanitation.

Smallpox.

Smallpox remains an increasing threat due to the combined effect of apathy towards vaccination and enthusiasm for airborne travel. I think that people do not realise that we are less than 24 hours away from areas of constant ravage by this dreadful disease.

Smallpox swept this Borough from time to time until some 50 years ago when widespread vaccination checked its progress and vigilance at the sea ports prevented its importation. A generation has grown up which is blinded by the complacency of false security, not yet realising that air travel has made smallpox once more a very real risk to the community.

Persons from abroad, who may be incubating the disease, arrive in this country well within the incubation period. It is most important that all children should be vaccinated in infancy, and that adults should keep themselves protected, rather than rush in belated panic for mass vaccination when an outbreak occurs.

The present low vaccination state of the population is inviting trouble from this disfiguring and often fatal disease. I cannot stress too strongly the wisdom of taking obvious precautions against preventable diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

| DISEASE. | Total. | Ages. | | | | | | | | | | | Admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|---------|-----|
| | | -1 | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | 45- | | | 65- |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 7 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 6 | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic ... | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Sonne Dysentery ... | 10 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Erysipelas... ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles ... | 44 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough ... | 46 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Food Poisoning ... | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL ... | 139 | 7 | 14 | 16 | 19 | 10 | 19 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | — |

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Parts II and III.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, Manchester, at Lancaster Isolation Hospital, a modern and well equipped building within easy reach of the area under modern transport conditions.

Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council and is based in Kendal.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Disinfection in connection with infectious diseases or for other public health reasons was carried out in 24 houses during the year. There is a steam disinfectant at Parkside Road which is available to other local authorities and private bodies.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. It is sadly expensive in human lives, in crippling, and in money. It attacks mainly the teen-ager and the young adult, but its tragic progress lingers often into old age, spreading ripples of infection in its path. It is a blatant challenge to preventive medicine.

The prevention of Tuberculosis is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council's functions are three-fold: to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

Investigation of the source of infection relies upon notification. Since the Regional Hospital Boards reorganised the arrangements for treating tuberculosis, notification has deteriorated seriously and our statutory registers are becoming progressively inaccurate. It is to be hoped that some liaison machinery will be evolved to restore the co-ordination between treatment and prevention which existed before July, 1948.

When notifications are received, inquiries are made into the home and working conditions of the patient and into any outside possible sources of infection. In this way occasional infectious respiratory cases can be discovered, and in certain cases of non-respiratory involvement infected milk can be traced back to tuberculous cows. A more detailed medical examination of members of the patient's family is undertaken by the Regional Hospital Board.

Additional assistance in investigating the source of infection will be provided by the Mass Miniature Radiography Units of the Regional Hospital Boards, which offer free X-ray examination in each locality from time to time. It is hoped that the public response will be good and that not only will it reveal the infectious cases but will enable early cases to be offered the best possible chances of recovery.

The Manchester Regional Hospital's Board's Unit was stationed in Kendal for the first time in December, and attracted considerable numbers from the Borough and the surrounding areas of South Westmorland. The full results were not available at the year end and they will be incorporated in next year's report.

Preventing the spread of infection depends mainly upon the management of the established case. Ideally, the infectious patient should be isolated, but the serious shortage of beds and nurses in sanatoria causes many cases to remain outside. This is usually to the detriment of the patient and it creates a very serious reservoir of infection leaking into the general population.

If isolation in hospital is denied, reliance has to be placed on education of the patient in personal precautions, and your Council endeavour to ensure that the home conditions are such that an infectious patient is not compelled to share a bedroom with other members of the family who are still healthy, and where possible to rehouse young families who are sharing a house with infectious tuberculosis patients—rather an inadequate and pathetic makeshift.

Prevention of tuberculosis extends beyond the home. Your Council have the duty of ensuring that an infectious patient is not employed in dairying or food handling, and persuasion is occasionally needed to avoid the undesirability of such a patient carrying on certain other employment which would create an especial risk to susceptible contacts. In many other workplaces control is impotent and spread may be unchecked. Perhaps immunisation with B.C.G. vaccine may protect susceptibles.

Removing conditions favourable to infection embraces the whole range of environmental preventive medicine. Housing and nutrition are probably the major factors. Slum clearance, reconditioning of houses, relief of overcrowding are the first steps, for tuberculosis thrives in damp, dark, congested dwellings, whether they be sited in an urban slum or rural solitude. Nutrition is undoubtedly significant in the prevention of infection and in the early arrest of tuberculosis. Protective foods are expensive to buy, medical treatment is free.

The increase in attested herds, the eradication of tuberculous cattle, and systematic meat inspection are making notable progress in removing conditions favourable for bovine infection to be transmitted to man.

The supervision of dusty trades under the Factories Act reduces the risk of lung damage which may predispose to tuberculous infection, and the workers in these occupations are especially surveyed by the X-ray units.

Your Council have therefore very considerable responsibilities in accepting the challenge of tuberculosis, but their powers would be considerably enhanced by better co-ordination with the various other bodies who are allies in this cause.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

| Age Periods. | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | 1 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 15 | 3 | 7 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| 25 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| 35 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total ... | 10 | 11 | 2 | — | 4 | 4 | — | — |

Included in these notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis were four patients who were transferred from other areas and one from the armed services,

HOUSING.

The Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your district, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 57.

The number of inhabited houses in your Borough is 5,611. With an estimated population of 18,450 the average number of persons per house is 3·3. This is not a high figure for a desirably sized family, but many of the houses have only one or two occupants.

On the Council estates it is not uncommon to find more than one family unit in each house, and although this leads to domestic and personal difficulties it usually does not constitute overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, which assumes that living rooms are used also for sleeping purposes, and that the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health or family relationships. Assessment of overcrowding based on a minimum bedroom standard is long overdue and would provide a more realistic picture of the domestic difficulties which are reflected in the application lists for new houses.

Since the overcrowding survey of 1936 there have been so many migratory changes that the present conditions in the Borough could be accurately assessed only by undertaking a new survey. It is hard to reconcile the figure of 3·3 persons per house with the large number of applicants for new houses. The neighbouring areas of South Westmorland and Windermere are considerably used as dormitories for Kendal and this overspill factor complicates the complete picture of housing in the Borough.

About half the houses are of relatively recent construction, built since the end of the 1914-18 war. Over one-fifth of the total houses in the Borough are municipally owned and provided with modern amenities. It can also be assumed that the other fifth built by private enterprise in this period are similarly of good quality.

About another 40 per cent of the houses were built before 1920, but appear to be structurally sound, and most of them have modern amenities. A few are poorly arranged on account of their proximity to bad property.

The rest of the houses include a lot of very old property in poor structural condition and badly arranged. In addition to their disrepair and sunless congested position in ill-paved yards, they lack the essential amenities of separate sanitary accommodation, hot-water systems, baths, cooking facilities, food stores and separate gardens or yards. These include approximately 140 houses condemned before the war.

Housing Act Action.

On account of the current housing shortage, action under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949, was limited to modest progress. The restraint upon initiating condemnation actions means that considerable war and post-war arrears are continuing to accumulate, and there is a danger that the circumstances of the times will impede your progressive policy for slum clearance by forcing acceptance of a much lower standard of living.

The use, under Defence Regulations, of houses long ago condemned as unfit for human habitation must be deplored as a regrettable war-time necessity which should not be allowed to continue long in peacetime. Your Council have drawn, and are continuing to draw, a Government subsidy on the number of the original tenants rehoused from these properties. Your encouraging new housing progress will probably enable you to remedy this situation in the near future.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.

Four closing orders were made during the year, all in a tenement building in Captain French Lane.

The total number of houses subject to closing orders is 57, of which 17 are still occupied. These 17 comprise the four made in 1950, nine original pre-war tenants, one let by your licence under Defence Regulation 68A, and three let by your requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

During the year your Council rehoused original tenants from three houses subject to closing orders. Two of these houses have been converted for trade use. One closing order was satisfied by the death of the original tenant. The alleged illegally occupied house was vacated during 1950.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation

Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.

Four undertakings were accepted during the year, all these being deemed suitable for conversion to trade use when they become vacant.

The total number of such undertakings in force is 105, of which 29 relate to houses which are still occupied. These 29 houses comprise the four accepted during 1950, eighteen original pre-war tenants, two let by your licence under Defence Regulation 68A, and five let by your requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

No tenants were rehoused during the year from such houses.

The acceptance of so many undertakings in the past is now leading to difficulties, as many of these properties are becoming derelict through neglect by their owners. Probably these will be dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and some will be treated as dangerous buildings, but I strongly advise that your future policy should be to keep the acceptance of undertakings to the minimum, and by insistence upon demolition you will avoid the perpetuation of decayed buildings which are an eyesore and a potential danger.

No undertakings to perform works to make houses fit were offered during the year and no improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949 were authorised.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 25.

Four demolition orders were made during the year. Three of these were in an island block in Fellside, and one bordered a clearance area in Captain French Lane.

The total number of outstanding demolition orders is 31, of which 14 are still occupied. These 14 comprise the four made in 1950, seven still occupied by the original pre-war tenants, one let by your licence under Defence Regulation 68A, and two let by your requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

No tenants were rehoused during the year from such houses.

Five houses subject to demolition orders were demolished in 1950. These have been standing derelict for a long time. Two houses not under orders were demolished on account of their dangerous condition.

One house owned by the County Council was not relet on account of its extensive disrepair when your Council rehoused the tenants. It will probably be demolished in due course. Two illegally occupied houses have been vacated.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 25.

Just before the 1939-45 war six clearance areas were represented by my predecessor but further action was stayed on these houses. There were three areas at Far Cross Bank, two in Captain French Lane, and one on Fellside, comprising 90 houses.

Abbot Hall Square had also been purchased by agreement for demolition by your Council and during 1950 the number of remaining tenants was only two. Much of the square has already been demolished.

In 1948 the Minister of Health confirmed your first post-war compulsory purchase order for slum clearance in White Lion Yard. Conveyance of these premises is still in progress and it is hoped that the nine houses and six trade premises will soon be demolished.

In 1949 I made official representation against three clearance areas, comprising 29 houses in the Far Cross Bank West zone. After a public inquiry the Minister of Health confirmed your Council's compulsory purchase orders for these premises, and at the end of 1950 conveyances were being arranged.

During 1950 I made official representation against five clearance areas in Captain French Lane, comprising 27 houses. Your Council made compulsory purchase orders and at the year end were awaiting the consideration of the Minister of Health.

Preliminary inspections have been made with a view to proceeding with clearance areas behind Highgate and on Fellside. It is essential to initiate action early because there is likely to be a time lag of five to ten years before the houses are actually demolished and the sites can be redeveloped.

Redevelopment Areas.

There are no outstanding specified redevelopment areas, but there are zones in the central part of the Borough which will be conveniently represented under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, as areas of obsolete development. If these powers are wisely applied there will be excellent opportunities for replacing the squalid jumble of decaying property by a new layout of the centre of Kendal more in keeping with the spirit of the present century.

In 1948 I presented to your Council a scheme for progressive clearance and redevelopment of these central areas and of your beautiful riverside to which Kendal now turns a rather sordid back.

Progress of Slum Clearance.

In 1891 your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Craven, commented in his Annual Report thus upon the conditions of the houses of the labouring classes: "The arrangement of the buildings in the great majority of the yards of Kendal is such that the complete change of air within and without the dwellings is a remarkably slow progress. The free access of direct sunlight is generally prevented by the bad arrangement of the buildings. If I were to attempt to represent as unfit for human habitation one-tenth of the dwelling houses which do not comply with the building byelaws of the Borough—old as they are—it would be absolutely impossible for the Sanitary Authority, having regard to its financial position, adequately to deal with the matter." Dr. Craven then pointed out some alleviating measures. These included the following recommendations: "Endeavour should be made to prevent all accumulations of filth, whether large or small, within the limited areas which do exist. Next I would point out the conditions of the surface of the great majority of the yards. Paved with boulderstones and not grouted, the interstices provide a ready means for the accumulation of filth. If the flagging of these yards which are not used for vehicular traffic is too costly a matter, grouting and the proper formation of channels and the abolition of hollows should everywhere be adopted."

In 1930 your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Cockill, in his Annual Report, stated that the houses available for persons of the working classes were situated mainly in the yards behind the main streets, and that they numbered about 1,200. He drew your attention on many occasions to the ill-effects of living in sub-standard houses badly arranged and congested around ill-paved yards. I can only re-echo the advice of the past half century.

In the 10 years from 1930 to 1940 your Council took energetic steps to make some progress in slum clearance. Of the 1,200 houses mentioned by Dr. Cockill, about 365 of these were demolished under your slum clearance schemes. Another 300 houses require clearance in the next stage, and we think that another 440 may be capable of reconditioning. There has thus been over 10 years' lull in your progress, a lull which has caused a growing impatience at the frustrations which have beset us, but which is now a challenge to the awakening social spirit of this era of post-war reconstruction.

Condemned Houses Occupied by Licence or Requisition.

Four houses remain occupied under your licence issued under Defence Regulation 68A for the housing of bombed-out persons.

Seven houses are still occupied under your requisition under Defence Regulation 51 for the accomodation of persons inadequately housed during the war.

I recommend that these war-time measures should not be prolonged into the seventh year of peace.

Fit Houses Requisitioned.

Defence Regulation 51.

2 houses are still occupied under your requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

Estimated Requirement for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 71.

The Housing Act, 1949, enlarged the responsibilities of your Council for the provision of new houses to accommodate all classes of the community. Under the older Acts of Parliament your powers and duties were limited to what were then termed the working classes.

At the end of the war in 1945 it was estimated that your current requirement for new houses was about 750. Up to the end of 1948 there had been built about 240 houses, but the waiting list had swelled to 842.

The Minister of Health called for a check of this figure in November, 1948, and out of the 842 applicants 701 replied that they still wanted a new house. Analysis of these revealed that 457 were without a house of their own and 244 desired to improve their accommodation.

There are probably some other families which have not applied, and although many of the folk who wish to improve their way of living are included in our slum clearance programme there may be some who will have to be rehoused even if they are contented with their slum conditions.

The emphasis on tenancy allocation is still on the provision of a house for each family unit and as I said in last year's report you are not even keeping up with the marriage rate. Although it is not practicable to arrive at a precise figure for your present new housing needs I suggest that between 650 and 750 is a probable maximum range, bearing in mind that the restriction on private enterprise building may not last another five years.

Housing Schemes.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 72.

The Sandylands Estate of 242 houses was completed during 1950. About 70 houses were completed on the Hall Garth Estate and about a further 60 were under construction. Hall Garth will probably provide for some 350 houses, and the time is approaching for your Council to find and acquire additional sites. Such acquisition is tediously protracted and it is prudent to avoid a building hold-up in a few years' time.

I would again stress the desirability of some central redevelopment with flats for old people and smaller families. The Ministry of Health's suggestion for terrace houses might be very usefully applied to the central areas.

Building Progress.

(a) By the Local Authority.

Since the end of the 1939-45 war and up to the 31st December, 1950, your Council completed 316 traditional houses, 40 prefabricated bungalows, and 9 flats at the old isolation hospital. An additional 62 were under construction at the year end. 88 were completed during 1950.

(b) By Private Enterprise.

Post-war progress has been limited to 58 houses completed and 12 under construction, by the compulsory reduction of building licences; 18 of these houses were completed during 1950 and there have been 4 dwellings made from the conversion of larger premises.

Tenants Selection.

Your Council adopts the method of selection of tenants for Corporation houses by consideration of application cards, and personal knowledge of the applicants and their needs. There is no system of points, nor is there anonymity. This results in a considerable amount of personal canvassing by the more persistent applicants.

Your Tenants Selection Committee has been most sympathetic and has rehoused certain persons upon medical grounds at my representation. The public health has incidentally been safeguarded by the removal of these cases to separate dwellings.

I must repeat my plea for a high priority to be given to your slum dwellers in the allocation of new houses and re-lets. I am sure that their salvation from physical ills is a work of greater mercy than relieving the incompatibilities of temperament among those who share the enjoyment of better houses, or endeavouring to provide each newly-married couple with a house.

Housing Management.

The time has come when your Council should reconsider the appointment of a Housing Manager. You own approximately 1,678 houses which will require increasing attention, and very soon you will hold nearly two thousand. Many visits were made by the Sanitary Department during the year in connection with the public health aspects of housing management on the municipal estates. The rents of your houses range between 7/- and 12/9d. exclusive of rates. The rateable values vary between £10 and £22.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

Bed bugs were found in 8 houses including 5 of your own. Two of your houses were treated with cyanide gas, and one was sprayed with D.D.T. insecticide. The Department checked the accommodation and effects of successful applicants prior to their removal to Council houses. In all cases where bed-bugs were suspected or found the furniture and effects were removed by the Health Department and treated with cyanide before delivery. Bedding was treated at the steam disinfectors at Parkside Road. 395 visits were made in connection with this work. This entailed many visits outside normal working hours and the staff required much tact and patience in this very exacting and important work.

Nuisances and Notices.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

During the year 1,090 inspections of dwelling houses and 295 inspections of yards were made and 109 visits were made to investigate complaints in houses. The following action resulted:—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Preliminary Notices served | ... | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| Statutory Notices served | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

In no case was it necessary to obtain an Abatement Order from the Court.

Dangerous Buildings:

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 58.

The operation of these provisions lies with the Borough Engineer who reports the following action undertaken during the year:—

One Statutory Notice was served under this Act and 8 Informal Notices were also sent.

It appears probable that some of the houses subject to undertakings will have to be dealt with under these powers as they are becoming progressively derelict.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 268-269.

10 visits were paid concerning tents, vans and sheds, and in every case it was moved within a few days.

There are no licensed camping sites within the Borough, and no individual licences are in force.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Act, 1945.

Kendal has an abundant water supply from both overground and underground sources, and ample storage capacity in the reservoirs. There are only 45 houses in the Borough, which do not obtain their water from the Corporation mains, 13 of these are connected to the Thirlmere aqueduct, and the remainder are served by wells and surface water private installations.

The overground sources are upland surface gathering grounds, lying to the east of the Borough, with a run off from rocks of the Kirkby Moor Flags in the Upper Ludlow series of the Silurian System. The Catchment Area is about 400 acres in extent, feeding all three of the reservoirs.

The main reservoir is at Fisher Tarn which has a capacity of 117,996,000 gallons. The tarn is fed by five main runners and by springs in the floor of the reservoir.

Upper Birds Park Reservoir has a capacity of three million gallons. Lower Birds Park reservoir has a capacity of 14,784 gallons. Upper Birds Park normally overflows into Lower Birds Park, but there are two 2-inch and one 6-inch siphons for use when by-washing ceases, and Lower Birds Park can also be fed by a 6-inch main from Fisher Tarn.

These three reservoirs therefore provide very generous storage capacity, amounting to about six months' supply. The annual consumption is 41 gallons per head per day, including all industrial works.

The underground source of water is at Mints Feet, which is a shallow well near the bank of the River Kent on the north of the town. The well is 58 feet by 40 feet and 5 feet depth of water at rest level, with open jointed stone linings and uncovered. It is liable to flooding by the River Kent in times of spate, and it requires weeding twice a year. This supply comes from the river and the alluvial deposits of the valley bottoms and has been inexhaustible with the present pumps. The safety of this supply is entirely dependent upon chlorination and there is no second line of defence.

I do not like Mints Feet Well. The source is dangerously polluted with sewage and surface water and I do not consider that hypochlorination is an adequate safeguard. I would prefer to see this well abandoned, but if it is essential to retain it, I feel that its use should be restricted to dire necessity under a very strict supervision of the chlorination technique. If it is desired to retain the well as one of your major sources of supply I recommend that additional purification measures should be installed.

The distribution system is mainly by gravity, but there is a Booster at Beast Banks to improve the pressure in the Greenside area. There is a service reservoir fed from Fisher Tarn at Bolefoot, Oxenholme, with a capacity of 30,000 gallons.

Treatment by chlorination is carried out on all the supplies with apparatus at Greyhound Farm, Birds Park, and Mints Feet. Bacteriological examinations are carried out monthly and full chemical analyses are made half-yearly, and the results are set out in Appendix "A" herewith.

Safeguarding of the purity of the upland supplies is further ensured by the regular and frequency inspection of the gathering ground and by particular attention to the health of the workmen and fishermen on the reservoir.

I have no official knowledge of the quantity or quality of the private water supplies.

I am indebted to the Water Engineer for furnishing the technical data in this section.

SEWERAGE.

Water Carriage.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 47.

6,661 water closets of the washdown or washout type are estimated

to be fitted in the Borough. There are 56 trough-closets, 16 privies, and four pail closets still in use.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 87.

More public conveniences are needed in the town, particularly in the main thoroughfare, where they can be easily seen by visitors and where they may be properly supervised. Considerable fouling of the yards and doorways takes place at night, and the present public conveniences have suffered grievous wanton damage by hooligans. The provision of new premises was under consideration at the year end and for a larger block to be erected on the New Road Car Park, and for a temporary structure in Sandes Avenue to meet the present distressing plight of long distance bus passengers.

Sewerage System.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 14.

Most of the Borough is served by the public sewers, but about 150 houses remain dependent upon cesspools. Some of the sewers are overloaded and require enlargement. Certain ancient drains communicate with the surface water channels and cause occasional pollution of the river by crude sewerage. These are being remedied as they are discovered.

Sewage Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 15.

Sewage disposal is carried out at Wattsfield in the south of the Borough. These works were opened in 1909 with extensions in 1919/20, and comprise coarse screens with detritus tanks, whence it is carried by rotating distributors to circular filter beds. It is then passed through humus tanks before being discharged into the River Kent. The effluent has been satisfactory in quality.

Sludge is pumped on to drying beds on the adjacent land, and special treatment is given to the gas-works liquor. There are adequate storm-water tanks.

The average dry weather flow of crude sewage dealt with at the works is 1,050,000 gallons per day. The plant is under the control of the Borough Engineer and has at all times been operated efficiently and without nuisance—a high tribute to any sewage disposal works.

New Sewerage.

New sewerage was laid for the development of the Hallgarth estate,

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 72.

With a very few exceptions in the remote parts of the Borough there is a weekly removal of refuse carried out under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. A special Sub-Committee reviewed the service during the year and found it efficient.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 76.

Controlled tipping on a central site at Castle Grove continued. Your Council's space was filled by 31st July, and tipping then commenced on adjoining land, owned by Messrs. Somervell Brothers, to make a sports field on completion.

No serious complaints were received from local residents, but it is obviously unpleasant to have a refuse tip so near a built-up area, and when a new site is required in perhaps 5 or 6 years' time I consider that a more secluded position should be chosen preferably outside the Borough. In the days of horse and cart removal it was necessary to maintain a tip in the town but the introduction of motor transport leaves little excuse for continuing to live almost on top of one's own middens.

Refuse from the slaughterhouse, fish shops and greengrocers is buried in deep pits at Wattsfield.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

Salvage of waste materials was continued during the year, and prices were rising steadily for the sale of recoverable materials.

So long as suitable materials are put out for collection and can be easily sorted it may be economical and a fire safeguard to continue their salvage and sale, but a close watch will be needed on costings to assess the relative merits of salvage and disposal.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 77.

The main streets are maintained by the staff of the Borough Engineer. The open-air markets cause considerable work but the general appearance of the roads is good. Quite another picture is seen in many of the yards lying behind the main frontage to which the annual reports of my predecessors for the past 50 years have drawn attention.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

General Powers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 65.

Your Council has the normal duties of a county district in the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Therefore most aspects of the safeguarding of the public from food-borne disease and poisoning are your responsibility.

One small change was made on 30th September, 1950, when the Westmorland County Council revoked its delegation of powers to your Borough for the supervision of the analytical quality of food. Your Borough had carried out this work since 1875.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13.

Food traders and caterers observe a fairly good standard of cleanliness on the average, but considerable work lies ahead in raising the standard of those who are now below the average. I want to see safer food, safer premises, and safer food-handlers.

This aim is of major importance. It will involve my department carrying out your statutory responsibilities with particular diligence, and it will require the education and co-operation of all food-handlers within your Area. 282 visits were made during the year to food premises.

I am confident that this co-operation will be forthcoming. I believe that traders are eager to set their premises in order in the interests of enterprise and competition, and that they are anxious to eliminate slipshod methods among their staffs.

Thorough cleanliness in the kitchens is far more important than tidiness in the dining-room. No food trader nor caterer should be ashamed to show his customers behind the scenes, and every customer should be confident that the food he eats is safe and has been safely prepared. He has a right to be so protected and your Council is the guardian of that right.

The Minister of Food approved your Council's new Byelaws under Section 15 of the Act to govern the handling and wrapping of food and the sale of foodstuffs in the open air, and these will be distributed to traders.

Food-borne diseases, mild dysenteries, and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce preventable diseases.

Legal proceedings were taken against the occupier of a bakehouse for contravention of Section 13 of the Act, and on conviction fines totalling £60 were imposed.

Legal proceedings were pending at the year end against one hotel and one restaurant for alleged contraventions of Section 13.

Food Poisoning Outbreak.

There was a sharp outbreak of staphylococcal enterotoxin food poisoning just before Christmas. 150 cases were notified in Kendal and a wide surrounding area, and probably there were many more. Fortunately there were no deaths.

The source was traced to one Kendal shop. The cause was believed to be accidental infection from a septic cut finger into gelatin and meat during the preparation of jellied veal and brisket. The same organism was traced from the finger, the bulk stocks of prepared jelly, the unsold meat, the sold meat, and the excreta of the patients.

I have to thank the press and the B.B.C. for their valuable assistance in warning the public over the Christmas weekend, as I know that very many people were saved thereby, and I was considerably helped by the willing co-operation of the shopkeeper and her staff.

This outbreak emphasised the human element in food preparation, and it is proposed to hold a Safe Food Exhibition during 1951 to draw wider attention to the necessity for teamwork between the manufacturer, the retailer and the consumer in preventing food poisoning.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale... | ... | 3 |
| Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale ... | ... | 3 |
| Storage and sale only ... | ... | 20 |

A comprehensive code of standards for ice cream factories, plant and retail units was circulated to the traders, the open barrow or cart has now been abolished, and the enforcement of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, has greatly improved the technique of manufacture. 115 visits were made during the year.

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

The number of premises on the register under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, pressed meat, and pickled foods, was 31 at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades, apart from one outbreak of food poisoning.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.*Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| Total number of registered Distributors | ... | ... | 28 |
| Total number of registered Dairies | ... | ... | 13 |

Some of the vehicles used on retail milk rounds are deplorably unsuitable, but traders are gradually replacing them with proper vehicles.

The retail distribution of loose milk by the obsolescent jug and hand-can still lingers on as an unsatisfactory feature from the point of view of public health.

Cleanliness of Milk.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.***Designated Milk.**

Sixty-five samples of designated milks were taken during the year, including nine pasteurised milks. Seven of these samples were unsatisfactory, including one of the pasteurised milks.

These tests reflected some improvement in the cleanliness and keeping quality of milk. Transport and delivery delays are factors which foster bacterial multiplication in milk, but your Council is primarily interested in the actual state of the milk as it is delivered to the doorstep of the consumer, who pays extra for the higher cleanliness of designated milk.

Undesignated Milk.

44 samples of undesignated milk were examined for cleanliness and keeping quality during the year. 32 of these were up to the standard of designated milk.

The improvement of last year has been continued and this achievement is praiseworthy because the standard of designated milk is irrationally applied to undesignated milks, and it reflects improved care at all stages between the cow and the consumer.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.

38 samples were examined biologically in guinea pigs for the presence of tuberculosis organisms and all milks were found to be free.

The finding of tubercle bacilli in milk is difficult and one must bear in mind the human biological tests on your children, with their tragic record of new cases each year from non-respiratory tuberculosis. The growing popularity of the Attested Herds scheme and Tuberculin Tested milk production, together with the pasteurisation of Accredited and ungraded milks will gradually reduce this toll of human suffering which has fallen upon an average of five of your Kendal children each year.

No instances of other disease producing organisms in milk were found. We know that *Brucella Abortus*, the organism which causes contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man can be isolated from a good proportion of bulked milk supplies, and it is probable that mild infections constantly occur. No serious cases have been encountered and the veterinary profession is taking steps to inoculate cattle against the disease.

It was not necessary to stop any milk or restrict the activities of any milk-handlers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations on account of infectious disease.

Designated Milk Licences.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

Your Borough Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of designated milks. At the year end eight dealers licences for tuberculin tested milk and one supplementary licence for pasteurised milk were in force.

Quality and Adulteration of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 1-7.

Your Council undertook these delegated responsibilities until 30th September, 1950, from the County Council, and analyses were carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., the Public Analyst, at Darlington.

The following reports were made upon milk samples taken during 1950 for the purpose of supervising the quality of milk and detecting possible adulteration.

| Samples | Results | Remarks |
|---------|---|---|
| 16 | Genuine. | Vendor fined £5 and 17/6 Analyst's Fee in respect of each sample. |
| 1 | Contained 8.3% added water | |
| 1 | Contained 8.5% added water | |
| 1 | Contained 6.9% added water | |
| 3 | Genuine. | "Appeal to cow" samples in connection with above. |
| 6 | Each sample slightly deficient in solids not fat. | Analyst reported that deficiencies were due to natural causes in each case. Referred to Agricultural Executive Committee. |
| 3 | Each sample slightly deficient in milk fat. | Noted for future sampling. |

In the milks the highest fat content was 4.4 per cent. and the highest non-fatty solids was 9.37 per cent. The average percentages of milk fat and non-fatty solids in all milks (genuine and non-genuine) were 3.44 per cent. and 8.67 per cent, respectively.

All 31 samples of milk were examined for the presence of preservatives and were found to be free from them.

Licensed Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 57-61.

The only slaughter-house is the public abattoir at Sandylands. There are no licenced knackers' yards.

Slaughtering of Animals.

17,725 animals were slaughtered during 1950 and were inspected by the department. This figure included:—

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Beasts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,445 |
| Sheep | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11,017 |
| Calves | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,000 |
| Pigs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 263 |

Casualty animals are slaughtered in the same abattoir, but the Ministry of Agriculture has again co-operated by sending animals for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order as far as possible on days when little or no other killings were taking place. Many of these animals sent in by farmers and dealers have very little food value,

Condemnation of Meat at the Abattoir.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 10.*

The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned:—

| | Cattle excluding Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. |
|---|------------------------------|------------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| Number killed | 1,843 | 1,602 | 3,000 | 11,017 | 263 |
| Number inspected | 1,843 | 1,602 | 3,000 | 11,017 | 263 |
| <i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i> | | | | | |
| Whole Carcasses condemned ... | 18 | 100 | 174 | 120 | 5 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 82 (i) | 235 (i) | 30 | 210 (ii) | 33 |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | 5.4 | 20.8 | 6.8 | 2.9 | 14.4 |
| <i>Tuberculosis only.</i> | | | | | |
| Whole Carcasses condemned ... | 7 | 60 | 4 | — | 4 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 137 | 675 | 6 | — | 42 |
| Percentage of number inspected found to be affected with Tuberculosis | 7.81 | 45.88 | 0.33 | — | 17.49 |

NOTES. (i) Condemnations for livers and part livers affected with distomatosis, cavernous angioma, etc., are not included, no distinguishing of sexes being kept. In all these there were 2,483 livers and 247 part livers condemned.

(ii) Not included in these figures are 988 livers affected with distomatosis or other parasitic infections.

ANALYSIS OF MEAT CONDEMNATIONS.

Animals from Auction Mart.

| Class. | Number Killed. | CONDEMNATIONS. | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | | Total of Carcases Condemned. | Tuberculosis. | | Other Causes. |
| | | | Total Carcases. | Portions. | Total Carcases. |
| Beasts | 2,889 | 50 | 45 | 668 | 5 |
| Sheep | 10,709 | 17 | — | — | 17 |
| Calves | 2,784 | 137 | — | — | 137 |
| Pigs | 181 | 3 | 3 | 36 | — |
| TOTAL | 16,563 | 207 | 48 | 704 | 159 |

Casualty Animals.

| Class. | Number Killed. | CONDEMNATIONS. | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| | | Total of Carcases Condemned. | Tuberculosis. | | Other Causes. |
| | | | Total Carcases. | Portions | Total Carcases. |
| Beasts | 569 | 117 | 22 | 144 | 95 |
| Sheep | 338 | 103 | — | — | 103 |
| Calves | 217 | 41 | 4 | 6 | 37 |
| Pigs | 86 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 1,210 | 267 | 27 | 156 | 240 |

Tuberculosis detected.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 735 cases out of 1,602 cows | | or 45·88% |
| 76 „ „ „ 1,018 heifers | | or 7·56% |
| 56 „ „ „ 683 bullocks | | or 8·19% |
| 12 „ „ „ 142 bulls | | or 8·45% |
| 10 „ „ „ 3,000 calves | | or 0·35% |
| 46 „ „ „ 263 pigs | | or 17·49% |

Whole carcasses condemned for Tuberculosis.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|----|------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Cows | ... | ... | 60 | out of 735 | infected carcasses | | |
| Heifers | ... | ... | 6 | „ „ | 76 | „ | „ |
| Bullocks | ... | ... | 1 | „ „ | 56 | „ | „ |
| Bulls | ... | ... | 0 | „ „ | 12 | „ | „ |
| Calves | ... | ... | 4 | „ „ | 10 | „ | „ |
| Pigs | ... | ... | 4 | „ „ | 46 | „ | „ |

Whole carcasses condemned for reasons other than Tuberculosis.

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cows | ... | ... | ... | 82 |
| Heifers | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Bullocks | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Bulls | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Calves | ... | ... | ... | 174 |
| Sheep | ... | ... | ... | 120 |
| Pigs | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

The reasons for this high figure of infected cows are that these animals are sent for slaughter only when they have ended their working life or have become casualties. As bovine tuberculosis is a progressive disease its incidence is directly related to the age of the animal. These cows were not necessarily excreting tubercle bacilli in the milk, but we know that involvement of the udder occasionally occurred.

Apart from the public health aspects of the transmission of bovine tuberculosis to man these infections cause a very serious financial loss to farmers and deprive the nation of much needed additional milk and meat supplies.

All condemned meat is stained with an indelible dye and is salvaged for conversion into animal and poultry foods. No instances have been brought to notice of pets' food being purchased for human consumption. A warning is necessary in the handling of such foods, care must be taken to keep all utensils and preparation benches separate from human food, and careful washing of the hands after handling pets' food is advised to prevent contamination from infected meats.

Whole carcasses condemned for reasons other than Tuberculosis.*Food and Drug Act, 1938, Sections 10 and 12.*

The following meat was condemned in the course of distribution or at retail premises:—

Beef—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Hindquarter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Total Carcasses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Tongues | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Hearts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Diaphragms | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Tails | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Livers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Spleens | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |

Mutton—

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Hindquarters | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Part forequarter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Corned Beef—

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 6 lb. tins | ... | ... | ... | ... | 93 |
| 12 oz. tins | ... | ... | ... | ... | 77 |

Considerable improvement is needed in some of the vehicles used for the distribution of meat.

Condemnation of Other Foodstuffs.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 10 and 12.*

The following foodstuffs were condemned in shops and warehouses:—

Tins.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Cat Food | ... | ... | 2 | Coffee | ... | ... | 5 |
| Fish | ... | ... | 74 | Fruit | ... | ... | 242 |
| Fruit Juice | ... | ... | 24 | Fruit Pulp | ... | ... | 1 |
| Jam | ... | ... | 47 | Meat | ... | ... | 214 |
| Milk | ... | ... | 717 | Pudding | ... | ... | 3 |
| Sandwich Spread | ... | ... | 1 | Sauerkraut | ... | ... | 2 |
| Soup | ... | ... | 108 | Stew | ... | ... | 4 |
| Vegetables | ... | ... | 318 | | | | |

Packets, etc.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Cake Mixture | ... | ... | 52 | Corn Flakes | ... | ... | 10 |
| Gravy Browning | ... | ... | 35 | Pastry Mixture | ... | ... | 756 |
| Pudding Mixture | ... | ... | 11 | Rissole Nuts | ... | ... | 96 |
| S.R. Flour | ... | ... | 21 | Semolina | ... | ... | 36 |
| Soup | ... | ... | 19 | Wholemeal Flour | ... | ... | 1 |

Miscellaneous.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|----------------|------------------|-----|------------|
| Bacon | ... | ... | 38½ lbs. | Barley Sugar | ... | 5 lbs. |
| Brawn | ... | ... | 50 lbs. | Brisket | ... | 77 lbs. |
| Butter | ... | ... | 112 lbs. | Caramels | ... | 16 lbs. |
| Chocolate | ... | ... | 19 blocks | Cooked Ham | ... | 125¼ lbs. |
| Dried Mint | ... | ... | 156 drums | Eggs | ... | 52 |
| Fish | ... | 11 | Stones 8½ lbs. | Fish Cakes | ... | 64 |
| Fruit | ... | ... | 8 bottles | Jellied Veal | ... | 59 lbs. |
| Mayonnaise | ... | ... | 53 bottles | Mixed Peel | ... | 4 lbs. |
| Mushrooms | ... | ... | 1 bottle | Pickles | ... | 47 jars |
| Pork Pies | ... | ... | 90 | Powdered Gelatin | ... | 19 lbs. |
| Prepared Jelly | ... | ... | 10 | Pressed Pork | ... | 2¼ lbs. |
| Prunes | ... | ... | 35 lbs. | Sauce | ... | 67 bottles |
| Sausage | ... | ... | 54 lbs. | Semolina | ... | 7 lbs. |
| Sliced Meat | ... | ... | 18¼ lbs. | Sponge Puddings | ... | 9 |
| Swiss Rolls | ... | ... | 8 | | | |

Quality and Adulteration of Foodstuffs.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 1-7.*

The Public Analyst reported upon the following samples:—

| Article | No. of Samples | Result |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| Brawn | 1 | Genuine. |
| Condensed Milk | 3 | " |
| Glace Cherries | 2 | " |
| Ground Almond Substitute | 1 | " |
| Ice-cream | 11 | " |
| Marzipan | 1 | " |
| Potted Meat | 1 | " |
| Rum Butter | 1 | Not Genuine—Informal Sample Analyst reported that only 24% of the fat contained in the sample consists of Butter Fat. Letter of caution to vender |
| Sage and Onion Stuffing | 1 | Genuine. |
| Sausages | 9 | " |
| Sausages | 2 | Genuine—Contained Preservatives Correctly declared. |
| Sausages | 1 | Slightly deficient in meat content. Letter of caution to vender. |
| Sherry | 3 | Genuine. |
| Whisky | 5 | " |

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION.

Establishment.

The establishment of the Sanitary Department was one Chief Sanitary Inspector, two Additional Inspectors and one Clerk. The strength of the department was maintained during the year.

Organisation.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector had, of necessity, considerable administrative duties in the running of his department, the preparation of material and attendance at your Committees, and his availability for outside duties was restricted. This is the usual position in most Authorities.

The Second Sanitary Inspector spent the greater part of his time at the abattoir on meat inspection, and the balance on general sanitary inspection.

The Third Inspector was mainly engaged on general duties outside the office in connection with the execution of your statutory responsibilities.

The Clerk assists by relieving the burden of office work from the technical staff. It is desirable that the time of the technical staff should not be dissipated on clerical duties, but a certain amount of office work can be done only with that technical knowledge.

Cemeteries administration constituted a measure of misemployment, and I hope that at some future date it may be transferred to a more appropriate department of your Corporation.

The tabulated summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors provides some indication of the time spent on the multifarious duties of the department, the more theoretical aspects of which you have studied in this entire Annual Report:—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Inspection of dwellings | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,090 |
| Inspection of yards | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 295 |
| Visits to Public Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 692 |
| Visits to offensive trades | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 126 |
| Inspection of Common Lodging Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Inspection of dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 257 |
| Stables and piggeries | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Refuse disposal and salvage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 216 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Drainage works | 304 |
| Works in progress | 237 |
| Bakehouses | 31 |
| Food premises | 251 |
| Ice Cream premises | 115 |
| Factories and Workshops | 102 |
| Food and Drugs | 157 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | 10 |
| Shops Act | 45 |
| Miscellaneous | 75 |
| Complaints | 109 |
| Drains tested | 21 |
| Drains inspected | 160 |
| Disinfestation visits | 395 |
| Housing Management | 111 |
| Condemned property | 102 |
| Smoke Abatement | 18 |
| Overcrowding | 39 |
| Schools | 32 |
| Spouts | 12 |
| Infectious diseases | 30 |
| Cinemas | 6 |
| Licensed Premises | 80 |
| Mortuary | 6 |
| Pests Act | 120 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 5,260 |
| <hr/> | |

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 107.

The carrying out of the following offensive trades in the Borough has not given rise to any undue nuisance:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Fellmonger | 1 |
| Carcase Boilers | 2 |
| Tallow Melter | 1 |
| Tripe Boiler | 1 |
| Gut Scraper | 1 |
| Rag and Bone Dealers | 2 |

Factories.*Factories Act, 1937.*

The duties and responsibilities of your Council are not being fully carried out for the staffing reasons to which I have already referred, although much leeway has been made good.

There were 191 factories on the register. 102 inspections were made and one written notice served. No references were made to H.M. Inspector and one was received from him.

No out-workers were notified to your Council by factory owners.

There are no recognised basement bake-houses in the Borough.

No certificates were issued approving the means of escape in case of fire in a factory.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Minister of Labour and National Service giving the details of the Borough Council's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

Inspections.

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Insp- ections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted. |
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 191 | 102 | 1 | 1 |
| Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... | — | — | — | — |
| Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.) | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 191 | 102 | 1 | 1 |

Cases in which Defects were found.

| Particulars. | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | Referred By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :- | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | 1 * |

* Proceedings were taken under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

Shops Act, 1912-1936.

45 visits were made under the Shops Act for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and the maintenance of suitable temperatures. These duties are not adequately covered at present due to the prior claims of other work.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936, Part IX.

Only one common lodging house at Waterside remains on the register. 10 visits were paid during the year.

Rent Restriction Acts.

2 cases arose in connection with rent restriction and were remedied.

Several cases were noticed where the necessary entries prescribed by the Housing and Rent Restriction Acts, were not entered in rent books. All these were rectified upon the department's intimation to the agents or landlords.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 101-106.

18 visits were paid in connection with smoke abatement. Lack of suitable fuel is a great drawback in securing as clean an atmosphere as would be desirable.

Laboratory Services.

National Health Service Act, 1945, Section 17.

The Emergency Medical Service Laboratory attached to the Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal provided many of the necessary examinations of material obtained by the department. This laboratory has given extremely valuable services to the southern part of the County.

Since 1947 the Public Health Laboratory Service with which the Kendal Laboratory is associated, undertook to carry out, free of charge, all laboratory examinations which were of an epidemiological nature. This policy relieved the Council of the expense of many routine examinations and will encourage the general practitioner to make fuller use of modern laboratory diagnostic aids.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

There were no cases arising under Section 47.

Byelaws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force with regard to:—

Public Slaughterhouse.

Smoke Abatement.

Building.

Food Handling.

New Legislation.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, became operative on 1st April, 1950.

Food Handling Byelaws became operative on 26th June, 1950.

Shops Act, 1950, became operative on 1st October, 1950.

APPENDIX "A"

Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.

| Nature of Test | Standards Max. | Fisher Tarn | Birds Park | Mints Feet (Raw) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| <i>Pr. coli</i> count 37° | 3-10 | 0 | 3 | 11 |
| Character | — | Clear | Clear | Clear |
| Reaction | — | 7·4 | 7·2 | 6·7 |
| F. & S. Ammonia | ·005 | ·003 | ·001 | ·001 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | ·008 | ·005 | ·004 | ·004 |
| Total Solids | — | 6·8 | 8·08 | 12·4 |
| Hardness { | Perm. | — | — | — |
| | Temp. | — | — | — |
| | Total | 30 | 3·5 | 8·3 |
| Chlorides | 3 | 1·2 | 1·23 | 1·15 |
| Nitrates | ·1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nitrites | 0 | 0 | ·07 | ·31 |
| 0·2 Absorbed | 0·1 | ·092 | ·063 | ·027 |
| Poisonous Metals | 0 | — | — | — |
| Plumbosolvency | 0 | — | — | — |
| Rainfall (24 hours) | — | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Date Sampled | — | 1/2/50 | 2/2/50 | 2/2/50 |
| Laboratory | — | Liverpool | Liverpool | Liverpool |

Chemical analysis results expressed in parts per 100,000.

